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Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Nicole **Mannion** (Ireland)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2010, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 34th and 42nd meetings, on 5 May and 30 June 2011. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/65/SR.34 and 42).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/65/665);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 (A/65/720 and Corr.1);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/65/743/Add.5).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/65/L.47

4. At its 42nd meeting, on 30 June 2011, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" (A/C.5/65/L.47), submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/65/L.47 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1979 (2011) of 27 April 2011, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 30 April 2012,

Recalling also its resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 64/284 of 24 June 2010,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010 and 65/289 of 30 June 2011, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 30 April 2011, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 44.3 million United States dollars, representing some 5 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only ninety-seven Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

[1] A/65/665 and A/65/720 and Corr.1.
[2] A/65/743/Add.5.

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

9. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[1] subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

10. *Notes* the consistent underutilization of the budget for flight hours, and encourages the Secretary-General to take this trend into account in future budget submissions;

11. *Welcomes* the initiative to implement two quick-impact projects as part of the effort to enhance relations with the local population, and encourages the timely implementation of the projects;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269 and 65/289;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

14. *Notes* that the overall level of appropriation has been adjusted in accordance with the terms of its resolution 65/289;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010

15. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010;[1]

[1] A/65/665.

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012

16. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the amount of 65,398,400 dollars for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, inclusive of 61,449,400 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 3,346,300 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 602,700 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

17. *Also decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 54,498,667 dollars for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 April 2012, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 64/249 of 24 December 2009, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2011 and 2012, as set out in its resolution 64/248 of 24 December 2009;

18. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be offset against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 17 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,590,083 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 2,301,083 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 236,250 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 52,750 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

19. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 10,899,733 dollars for the period from 1 May to 30 June 2012, at a monthly rate of 5,449,866 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 64/249, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2012, as set out in its resolution 64/248, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

20. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be offset against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 19 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 518,017 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 460,217 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 47,250 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 10,550 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

21. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be offset against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 17 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 2,386,700 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2010, in accordance with the levels updated in resolution 64/249, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2010, as set out in its resolution 64/248;

22. *Decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be offset against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total

amount of 2,386,700 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2010, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 21 above;

23. *Also decides* that the increase of 138,900 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2010 shall be added to the credits from the amount of 2,386,700 dollars referred to in paragraphs 21 and 22 above;

24. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

25. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Mission under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

26. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedures and practices established by the General Assembly;

27. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".